



COAI

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I-DIGEST

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LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)

Director General, COAI

From DG's Desk

This month has marked some significant developments for India's telecom sector, which would be decisive in our journey towards becoming a digitally empowered nation. The industry's push for more airwaves is pivotal for the smooth rollout of 5G and the much-anticipated 6G services. The need for 2 GHz spectrum in the mid-band is imperative for mobile services in the country by 2030, a necessity that underscores our ambition to not just keep pace with global technological trends but to lead them. Identification of the potent 6 GHz band for IMT assumes great significance in this regard, especially for India, as the 1200 MHz of spectrum available in this band can most efficiently fulfil the deficit of mid-band spectrum required for India to meet the evolving needs of 5G and introduction of 6G in the future. This expansion would help reshape our national connectivity fabric, ensuring that we stay at the forefront of the digital revolution.

The World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) being held by ITU in Dubai would be crucial in determining the future of IMT services world-over, and the use of 6 GHz band to augment the same in India as well. We look forward to a progressive decision to be taken at the WRC-23 in this regard.

Our nation's commitment to sustainability and inclusivity has been further reinforced this month. The ongoing support from DoT, TRAI and the power ministry for facilitating Green Open Access initiatives across States aligns with our national objectives of reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable development. In a welcome development, we witnessed the progressive trend whereby 5 leading State Governments in India – Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand – recently adopted the amendment to the Green Open Energy Access Rules issued by the Ministry of Power earlier in May this year. We are pleased to see this long-standing demand of the industry now being acknowledged as well as supported by the Government, which also vindicates the telecom industry's position.

Besides being a key enabler of India's economic growth and prosperity, this essential infrastructure sector is also a responsible one, with clear objectives to shift progressively towards renewable and green energy use, thus supporting the nation's carbon reduction goals and sustainability efforts to contribute to a more environment friendly world. We expect this trend to snowball into faster adoption by other states/UTs in the near future and keenly look forward to it. COAI continues to work closely with all stakeholders to facilitate the growth of the sector to keep the nation connected, while prioritizing environmental welfare as a vital part of this endeavour. Our collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Development of Northeast Region (DoNER) to enhance telecom infrastructure in Northeast India is also testament to our dedication to ensuring that no region is left behind in India's digital journey.

The first episode of the India Mobile Congress Podcast 2023 provided valuable insights into our strategic roadmap for 5G deployment and the transition towards 6G. Reflecting on the evolution of spectrum usage from its early days in broadcasting to its current critical role in communication highlights its growing importance.



India envisions a future where 6G networks seamlessly connect humans and machines, blurring the boundaries between the physical and digital realms to create immersive experiences. As we edge closer to the advent of 6G, India's vision for this new era is not just about technological leadership but also about nurturing innovation and connectivity.

Our approach is holistic, embracing both historical perspectives and future-oriented strategies to ensure a robust and versatile telecom infrastructure. The 'India 6G' era, envisioned in collaboration with the government, academia and the industry ecosystem, marks a significant milestone in India's technological journey. With a legacy of being a global 5G leader, India, alongside its industry partners, is well-positioned to pioneer the 6G revolution, ushering in a new era of innovation and connectivity.

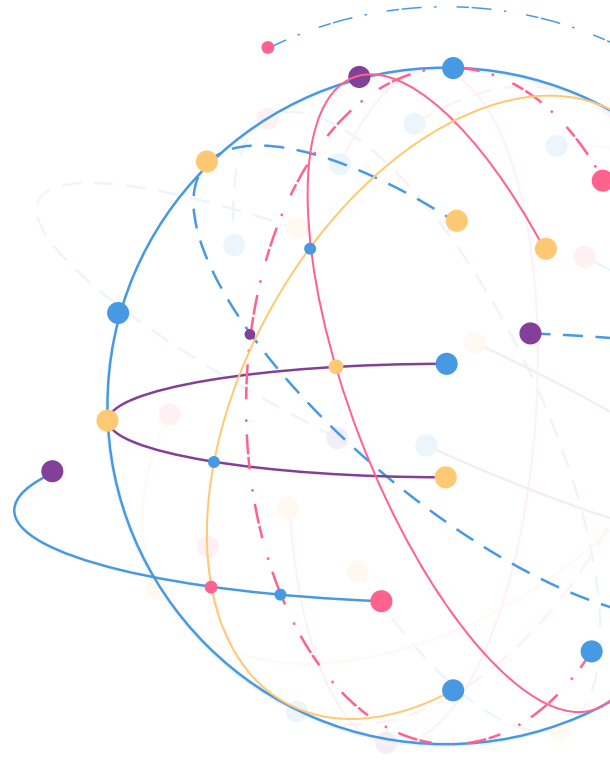
These developments not only represent our strides in technological advancement but also our unwavering commitment to a collaborative approach towards building a connected, inclusive and sustainable future. We are not just constructing networks, but laying the groundwork for a tomorrow that is empowered and resplendent with opportunities for every Indian.

– LT. GEN DR. SP KOCHHAR (RETD.)
Director General, COAI



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Latest Updates:



Submission on WRC-23 positions from India on Agenda Item 1.2 (6 GHz Frequency Band) for IMT/5G in National Interest

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 19th October 2023 regarding the WRC-23 positions from India on Agenda Item 1.2 (6 GHz Frequency Band) for IMT/5G in National Interest”.

TRAI Consultation Paper on Open and De-licensed use of Unused or Limited Used Spectrum Bands for Demand Generation for Limited Period in Tera Hertz Range

- a. COAI submitted its response to the above CP on 29th November 2023.
- b. The key submissions made by COAI are:
 - i. No part of any of the spectrum bands including the spectrum bands under discussion in this CP should be considered for delicensing.
 - ii. The Experimental and Technology trial licenses & Demonstration licenses prescribed by DoT in 2019 are sufficient for such requirements, even for the Tera Hertz frequencies.
 - iii. There is no need for separate experimental license for any frequency band, including THz bands.

QR code scanning of Aadhaar through mAadhaar app/API of UIDAI

- a. DoT issued its Amendment/addendum to existing instructions issued on 31st August 2023, for adequate verification of customers and other subscriber verification related matters.
- b. In this regard, COAI highlighted the challenges in implementing the QR code scanning of Aadhaar through mAadhaar app/API which require very urgent attention and resolution from UIDAI's end.

Consultative Committee (CC) constituted for adoption of TSDSI adopted ATSC 3.0 standards into National Standard by TEC

- a. In this regard, COAI submitted its inputs to TEC on 26th October 2023.

TRAI Consultation paper on "Digital Transformation through 5G Ecosystem"

- a. TRAI released the said Consultation paper on 29th September 2023.
- b. At the request of the Industry, TRAI provided an extension of timeline to respond to the Consultation paper till 26th December 2023.

TRAI Consultation paper on "Encouraging R&D in Telecom, Broadcasting and ICT sector"

- a. TRAI released the said Consultation paper on 29th September 2023.
- b. At the request of the Industry, TRAI provided an extension of timeline to respond to the Consultation paper till 23rd December 2023.

Updated ComSec Letter Submitted to DoT

- a. COAI and its members participated in the virtual meeting w.r.t. COMSEC Scheme held by NCCS, Bengaluru team on 22nd September 2023.
- b. In this regard, COAI submitted a letter to DoT Secretary on 30th October 2023.

NSDTS: Meeting on Implementation of NSDTS and Interaction with Industry Associations

- a. OAI requested NCSC team to organise stakeholders' consultation with Industry Associations. The same was held on 03rd November 2022.
- b. Many unresolved and pending issues w.r.t. NSDTS's Trusted Telecom Portal were discussed, impacting the Ease of Doing Business.
- c. NSDTS team assured to resolve some issues, however for rest of the issues they advised all to wait for Phase – II of the portal to be launched.

2nd Steering Committee of E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022

- a. CPCB held the 2nd Steering Committee meeting on 26th October 2023, under the Chairmanship of Shri Tanmay Kumar, Chairman, CPCB.
- b. COAI team participated and reiterated the ask for

reduction of EPR Targets for Telecommunication Network Products from 60% to 10%.

c. It was decided that a meeting between recyclers and producers to discuss the E-waste policy related issues jointly.

d. Further, Material Recycling Association of India organized a meeting between Recyclers and Producers Association on 17th November 2023.

e. Industry Associations requested COAI and its members to support their request for reduction of EPR Targets with some data points.

DoT sought input w.r.t. India-EU Seeking Mutually Acceptable Solution on WTO Panel Report

a. DoT held a meeting under the Chairmanship of Member (Services), attended by Director (IC) and other senior officials of DoT.

b. DoT sought inputs on India-EU's Mutually Acceptable Solution on WTO Panel Report 3. COAI submitted its response on the draft on 06th November 2023.

TRAI Consultation paper on Assignment of Spectrum in E&V Bands, and Spectrum for Microwave Access (MWA) & Microwave Backbone (MWB)

a. TRAI released the said Consultation paper on 27th September 2023.

b. At the request of the Industry, TRAI provided an extension of timeline to respond to the Consultation paper till 13th December 2023.

TEC Standard for Assessing and Rating Robustness of Artificial Intelligence Systems in Telecom Networks and Digital Infrastructure

a. TEC released the said Standards on 18th October 2023, wherein the last date to submit the comments was 15th November 2023.

b. COAI submitted a letter to TEC on 08th November 2023, seeking for an extension of one month to respond to the same.

c. In this regard, draft COAI response is under preparation.

Request for consideration of Industry Submission on WRC-23 positions from India on Agenda Item 1.2/6 GHz Frequency and for IMT/5G in National interest

a. COAI submitted a letter to DoT on the above subject on 08th November 2023.

b. In the letter, COAI requested the Government's firm intervention in identification of 6425-7025 MHz band for IMT services in region 3 at the WRC-23 and to advise the Indian delegation to strictly adhere to the Indian position during the same, and that any deviation on this subject must not be agreed to without consultation of all the stakeholders.

Addendum I to TEC Test Procedure for Measurement of EMF from Base Station Antenna (TEC 13019:2021)-for measurement of EMF Exposure from 5G Base Station

a. DoT released "Addendum I to TEC Test Procedure for Measurement of Electromagnetic Field from Base Station Antenna (TEC 13019:2021)-for measurement of EMF Exposure from 5G Base Stations" on 09th October 2023.

b. In this regard, COAI submitted its comments on 10th November 2023, requesting that any testing for 5G may only be done after the recommendations of the IMC are considered by DoT and in no case, earlier than the DoT exempted date of 5G EMF audit, i.e., 15th April 2024.

TRAI Draft Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2023

TRAI released the Draft Regulation on 27th September 2023, and COAI response was submitted to TRAI on 08th November 2023.

TRAI Consultation Paper on "Regulation on Rating Framework for Digital Connectivity in Buildings or Areas"

Extension was sought from TRAI for submission of response to the Consultation Paper via a letter submitted on 01st November 2023. Extension for submission of comments was granted till 08th December 2023.

Letter to DoT Regarding Relaxation of Mandatory Requirement of DoT Representatives to be present during survey.

A follow-up letter was submitted to DoT on 06th November 2023, reiterating the need to re-evaluate the necessity of mandating the physical presence of DoT officials during Submarine cable route surveys.

Letter to DoT for excluding Revenue earned from other licensed TSPs for sharing/leasing infrastructure from AGR

COAI submitted a letter to DoT on 09th November 2023, requesting to accept the recommendations laid down by TRAI on "Use of street furniture for Small Cell and Aerial fibre Deployment", "Improving Telecom Infrastructure in Northeastern States of India" and "Improving Backhaul Telecom Infrastructure in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh" stating that "Revenue earned from other licensed TSPs from sharing/leasing of infrastructure" be inserted under existing license condition named as "List of other income to be excluded from GR to arrive at ApGR" for levy of Licence fee.

Simplification of Spectrum Usage Charges

We submitted a letter to DoT on 03rd November 2023, requesting to consider the proposal offered by COAI and implement a simplified SUC assessment mechanism which would benefit all stakeholders involved and contribute to overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Telecommunication Sector.

Submission made to Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh

COAI made submission to Chief secretary (UP) on 01st November 2023, to include COAI and its members in District Level Telecom Committees (DLTC) meetings in the State.

Submission made to Secretary Telecom

COAI made a submission to the Telecom Secretary on 29th November 2023, reiterating the industry's request for support in getting Electricity at Industrial tariff category in States/UTs.

Reminder Submission on adoption of Green Open Access amendment -

COAI reminder letters were submitted to States/UTs, addressed to State ERCs to adopt the Green Energy Amendment issued by Ministry of Power (MoP) in May 2023, thereby making the sector eligible for aggregating load of 100 kW or above and avail Green Open Access.

Submission to Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority

COAI sent a reminder letter to CEO (GMDA) on 22nd November 2023, regarding members' issue of delay in getting RoW permissions.

Submission to Commission of Air Quality Management

COAI sent a letter to Chairman (CAQM) and Member Secretary, DPCC on 22nd November 2023, requesting to include Telecom in the Exception list for continuing with Construction and Demolition activities.

Bihar SBC meeting -

The 5th State Broadband Committee meeting of Bihar was held on 07th November 2023, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Bihar. Discussions took place regarding industry issues and challenges being faced by the industry during the meeting.

Submission to Joint MD, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation

COAI sent communication to the Jt. MD (GIDC) on 07th November 2023, as a follow up of the meeting held on 20th October 2023, for issuance of the minutes of the meeting and also aligning the GIDC policy with the Gujarat Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2022, dated 25th May 2022.

Noida International Airport Telecom Infra meeting

A review meeting was held with the Noida International Airport (NIA) on 07th November 2023, regarding the progress made by the members on the lowering of the Tower Mast(s) nearing Jewar Airport.

TIC quarterly meeting

The quarterly meeting of TIC was held on 02nd November 2023, under the chairmanship of Shri Dharmendra Khajuria to discuss on the RoW challenges and other related issues. The online meeting was attended by all members and representation from IP industry and their association.

Delhi Right of Way policy notification

The much-awaited RoW Policy was notified for Delhi on 1st November 2023, the only state in the country which had not adopted the RoW 2016 rules of the Central Government. The policy is aligned with the RoW Rules, 2016 and its amendment of 2022.

Uttar Pradesh SBC meeting

The Uttar Pradesh SBC meeting was held on 20th November 2023, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, UP. COAI took up the members' concerns and the discussions took place regarding industry issues and EB related support.

Gujarat SBC meeting

The 2nd SBC meeting of Gujarat for FY 2023-24 was held on 21st November 2023, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Gujarat. Discussions took place regarding industry issues, including the concern about GIDC policy and Gujarat state RoW policy alignment with Central RoW Rules Amendment 2022 and 2023.

Delhi DLTC meeting

COAI participated in the DLTC meeting held under the chairmanship of DM (East District) on 22nd November 2023. COAI highlighted that post OFC laying and restoration work, Security deposits and Bank Guarantee furnished by the members to MCD takes months/years in refunding.

Green Open Access amendment adoption by states -

The State Governments of Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Punjab have implemented and notified the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) (Second Amendment) Rules 2023. With this, now 5 states have adopted the same, including MP and Karnataka.

Submission to CS, Karnataka

Submission was made to Chief secretary (Karnataka) on 27th November 2023, regarding the discussion held during the industry meeting held on 20th November 2023.

Submission to CS Maharashtra

COAI submission was made to Chief Secretary (Maharashtra) on 27th November 2023, regarding the draft bylaws for Civic Bodies circulated by the concerned department.

Meeting with Secretary, Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region

COAI met - Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, DoNER, on 24th November 2023, regarding the implementation of TRAI recommendations for improvement of telecom infrastructure in the northeast region.

Odisha SBC

The 5th SBC meeting of Odisha was held on 16th November 2023, under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Odisha. Discussions took place regarding industry issues.

Arunachal Pradesh SBC

The 7th SBC meeting of Arunachal Pradesh was held on 16th November 2023, under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. Discussions took place regarding industry issues and the awaited RoW Policy amendment.

Submission to CS Madhya Pradesh

A letter to Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, was written on 01st November 2023, requesting for suitable instructions to be issued to Law Enforcement Agencies regarding the theft cases of telecom infrastructure in the state and taking apt measures.

3rd SBC Puducherry

The 3rd SBC meeting of the UT of Puducherry was conducted on 06th November 2023, chaired by the Chief Secretary. COAI raised issues like RoW Policy notification by the Government of the UT, LCO issue, CBuD progress, no regularization clause in policy for Towers, Security Deposits issue, etc.

6th SBC of Maharashtra

The 6th SBC meeting of Maharashtra was conducted on 10th November 2023 chaired by the Chief Secretary. COAI raised issues like pendencies with forest department, high DN demanded by NHAI for highways, no reflection of GST

paid, Annual Track Rent being demanded by PSUs like SIPCOT, SIDCO, etc. and no common rates by local authorities, property tax, etc.

Submission of Issues post 3rd SBC of Tamil Nadu -

A submission was made to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu on 20th November 2023, capturing the concerns raised by COAI during the SBC meeting.

Submission to Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, post 6th SBC--

A Submission to Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra was shared on 07th November 2023.

Submission to Chief Commissioner of Bengaluru Municipal Corporation -

A letter was submitted to the Chief Commissioner, BBMP on 08th November 2023, regarding fibre cuts in the city. The industry concerns were again raised, and support sought for permanent solution on the issue.



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News Wires:

Telcos seek more airwaves for smooth 5G services, 6G rollout

The telecom industry has urged the government to make available more airwaves for smooth delivery of 5G and 6G services. "The telecom industry needs around 2 GHz in mid-band for 5G/6G use by 2030," SP Kochhar, director general of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), told ET.

[Read more](#)



India Mobile Congress Podcast 2023: Episode 1- India's 5G Roadmap

Lt. Gen. Dr S.P. Kochhar, Director General COAI (Cellular Operators Association of India), sheds light on India's 5G rollout and the path ahead before transitioning to 6G technology, with a focus on the significant role played by the India Mobile Congress in shaping the country's digital future.

[Read more](#)



Exploring the historical, current and future implications of spectrum

In the early days, spectrum was primarily used for radio and television broadcasting. These were the first widespread applications of spectrum, enabling mass communication and shaping the cultural and social landscape of the time.

[Read more](#)



Readying for 6G- India's vision for digital leadership

As the dawn of 6G technology approaches, the global communications landscape stands on the brink of a major evolutionary leap

[Read more](#)



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News Wires:

DoT, TRAI, power ministry's continued support driving adoption of Green Open Access by States: COAI

In addition to bring a key enabler of India's economic growth and prosperity, the essential infrastructure sector has clear objectives to shift progressively towards renewable and green energy use to support the nation's carbon reduction goals and sustainability efforts, DG COAI said.

[Read More](#)



Bridging the spectrum gap: The crucial role of mid-bands in 5G & beyond

"Mid-band has been examined for various aspects that impact the minimum requirements to be met by operators to service their consumers in different geographies. Analysis reveals that ideally, 3-4 operators require 2 GHz of mid-band spectrum to offer optimal 5G services", opines DG COAI.

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COAI Highlights:

COAI and the Ministry of Development of Northeast Region (DoNER) collaborate to Boost Digital Connectivity in Northeast

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and the Ministry of Development of Northeast Region (DoNER) held a productive meeting to discuss ways to enhance telecom infrastructure and digital connectivity in the Northeast region of India. The meeting was led by Lt. Gen. Dr. S.P. Kochhar, Director General, COAI, and Shri Chanchal Kumar, IAS, Secretary, DoNER. The two sides discussed the challenges and opportunities for improving telecom connectivity in the Northeast, which is one of the most remote and challenging regions in India. DoNER's mission is to promote economic and social development in the region and to ensure that it benefits from the overall development of the country.





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